

REFERENCES

Please refer to the following for regulations referenced in this document:

Rule 10 (*Regulations and Procedures for the Accreditation of Schools*) August 2, 2000

Rule 21 (*Regulation for the Issuance of Certificates and Permits to Teach, Counsel, Supervise, and Administer in Nebraska Schools*) November 12, 2000

ACCREDITATION And CERTIFICATION

Options for Nebraska Schools

For Local Leadership In Providing Instruction to Students

**Nebraska Department of Education
July 2001**



PURPOSE OF THIS BOOKLET

The following pages identify options included in revised Rule 10, (*Regulations and Procedures for the Accreditation of Schools*) effective August 2, 2000, and in Rule 21 (*Regulations for Issuance of Certificates and permits to Teach, Counsel, Supervise, and Administer in Nebraska Schools*) that may be helpful in program planning. These options should enable local education leaders to examine alternatives for providing quality instructional programs that best fit local circumstances and student needs.

Nebraska Department of Education staff will be pleased to work with school administrators to explore and develop local plans that maintain equity and encourage quality in the local instructional program. You may contact Accreditation and School Improvement staff at 402/471-2444 or Teacher Certification staff at 402/471-0739

Like all teachers, (except substitute), however, these persons must meet the special education competencies requirement, the human relations training requirement, the basic skills competencies test requirement and, if not a Nebraska resident for five years, a new fingerprint requirement.

This certificate is used for teachers teaching vocational trades subjects, ROTC and for coaching interscholastic sports at the high school level.

The teacher certification office will provide upon request a brochure describing this form of certificate in greater detail and will be pleased to answer additional questions upon inquiry.

If you have questions regarding the above items, you may call Accreditation and School Improvement at (402) 471-2444 or Teacher Certification at (402) 471-0739.

substitute teaching any person who has ever held a regular teaching certificate in any state. The teacher certification office is able to quickly issue substitute certificates to these applicants without their having the human relations training, special education competencies, basic skills test, or recent teaching experience that apply to regular certificates. For those who have never held Nebraska certification, the fingerprinting requirement does apply.

Recent changes in the regulations provide that a person who holds the substitute teaching certificate can teach every day of the school year, but may not sign a “contract to teach” nor may this teacher teach in the same assignment (same students, same subject) for more than 90 days in any school year.

Regulatory changes also provide that a person who is not trained as a teacher can now secure a “local substitute teaching certificate” upon the recommendations of the employing school. This person must have 60 hours of college credit in a variety of subjects. The certification is only valid for 40 days of teaching in each school year. The certificate is valid for three years.

A brochure describing the two substitute teaching certificates is available from teacher certification.

Provisional Trades Certificate

The Provisional Trades Certificate makes it possible for persons with a special field of expertise or interest—but who have not been trained as teachers—to teach in a limited and controlled circumstance.

HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM OPTIONS IN RULE 10

Two courses in the same time frame (10-007.01A3b). This allows schools to provide two courses in the same subject field at the same time if the students primarily conduct independent projects or practice. Some examples could be:

Two levels of Art (Art 2 and 3, etc.)
Advanced Foreign Language courses
Accounting 1 and 2
Vocational courses using independent projects

In such courses, teachers should continually facilitate student work, provide guided instruction, help set goals, and oversee progress as students work on independent projects.

Alternating Courses (10-007.01A3d). Schools may provide biennial courses alternating from year-to-year in up to four subject fields and “count” instructional units from the previous year. Some examples would be:

Chemistry and Physics
Geometry and Advanced Algebra
Spanish I and Spanish II
Art 1 and 2
Literature and Composition
World History and Geography
Phys. Ed. 1 and Phys. Ed. 2
General Industrial Technology and
Construction
Beginning and Advanced Accounting
Business Procedures and Advanced
Information Processing

It is recommended that alternating programs be planned and published in advance of the years offered so that students and counselors can develop schedules that assure opportunity to participate in biennial offerings during the appropriate year.

Integrated Courses (10-007.01A3a). Integrated courses, when planned and taught effectively, enable students to see connections between subject areas and apply skills such as writing to content such as history. Rule 10 provisions for integrated courses allow for dividing instructional units among two or more course areas, if needed to meet instructional program requirements, thus expanding options for providing courses to students. Examples could be:

- Integrating History and Composition
- Integrating Health and Family and Consumer Sciences
- Integrating History and Literature
- Integrating History and Art
- Integrating Modern Problems and Composition
- Applied Science (Science and Vocational Agriculture)
- Business Communications (Business and English)
- Consumer Economics (Business and Economics)
- Cultural Studies (Social Studies, Music, and Art)
- Humanities (English, History, and Art)
- Applied Psychology (Family and Consumer Sciences and Psychology)

Performance Based Curriculum (10-007.01A3c). Performance based curriculum may be designed locally and should include course goals, representative instructional experiences, expected student performance, and a rationale for the number of instructional units to be generated. Instruction provided in this manner may provide increased

principalship, or vice-versa, can do that by completing a minimum of nine semester hours of pre-approved credit from a college having an approved program for preparation of school administrators. In addition, with the participation of the college, a principal is usually able to secure a provisional certificate showing only the new endorsement level—valid only in the requesting school system for one year—while working toward completion of the 9 hours.

Additional Field Endorsements. Nebraska colleges have developed increasing numbers of field endorsements (as contrasted with subject endorsements). Schools hiring newly graduated teachers may wish to specify these wide-coverage endorsements so that new teachers will have preparation for teaching a wider array of course offerings.

Expanded Interstate Agreements on Certification. Several states have signed a pact which guarantees to the new graduate a certificate in any participating state. The pact is simple—any graduate of a teacher education program in a pact-state, who holds a regular certificate in that state, is guaranteed two-year certification in any other pact-state, regardless of state-specific deficiencies. This assurance removes barriers in employing teachers from pact-participating states.

Participant states are: Michigan, Missouri, Oklahoma, Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois, Kansas, Arkansas, South Dakota, Wisconsin.

Substitute Teaching Certificate. Substitute teachers are in critically short supply in some areas of Nebraska. Administrators are encouraged to actively recruit into

TEACHER CERTIFICATION/ENDORSEMENT OPTIONS IN RULE 21

Provisional Endorsement. Many Nebraska teachers are currently eligible to add a provisional endorsement to their teaching certificate. This usually requires that a teacher ask a nearby teacher education college to review the entire academic record (transcripts) against the college's requirements for the desired added endorsement.

If the teacher has 50% of the needed credit, the endorsement may be added, provisional for three years, while remaining requirements are met. The provisional endorsement receives full recognition for assignment of staff in meeting accreditation requirements, will frequently serve to greatly broaden the teacher's employability, and supports continuing preparation of teachers as they work with students.

Provisional Administrative Certification. Persons serving in any administrative assignment may receive provisional certification (renewable annually) if at least 75% of an approved administrator preparation program has been completed for the superintendent's endorsement or 50% for the principal's endorsement.

Adding a "level" to administrative certification. It may be possible for some school administrators to add an endorsement level to assume leadership responsibilities at grade levels which previously were beyond the administrator's level of licensing. An elementary principal who wishes to add the endorsement for the secondary

options, especially for individual students who wish to pursue specialized course work not generally included in the class schedule.

***Distance Learning Technology (10-007.01A4b).** Schools may provide up to 100 instructional units of the 400 unit high school program requirement through distance learning technology.

***Cooperative Arrangements (10-007.01A4a).** School systems may contract with other school systems, educational service units, and/or postsecondary institutions to provide a part of the instructional program, provided that the courses are taught by properly certificated teachers and are made available to all eligible students.

***Correspondence Courses (10-0007.01A4c).** Schools may provide up to 30 instructional units of the high school program requirement through the use of correspondence courses. Specific provisions are in 10-007.01A4c.

***Note:** A Hearing Draft of Rule 10, dated June 8, 2001, if approved, will revise these provisions.

TEACHER ASSIGNMENT - - OPTIONS IN RULE 10

Subject endorsements in the secondary school. Teachers holding only subject endorsement (such as history) are *considered* appropriately assigned for another course in the same field (such as geography) if they acquire 6 credit hours per year, prior to the opening of school, toward the second subject or field. This provision allows the school to assign teachers as though they held the appropriate endorsement while they work toward an endorsement in the second subject or the broad field. (See 10-007.02A1)

Integrated Courses. Teachers may be assigned to teach integrated courses if they have an endorsement for one of the subjects included in the integrated course. For example, an integrated history and composition course may be assigned to a teacher holding either a history (or social studies) or English (or language arts) endorsement. It is expected that other teachers with appropriate endorsements will work cooperatively in planning such courses to ensure quality instruction for all students. (See 10-002.09, 10-007.01A3a, and 10-006.02A5.)

Middle Level Teachers. The middle level section in Rule 10 provides options for assigning teachers in the middle grades so that programs can be structured to best meet the needs of middle level students. For example, teachers holding any middle level endorsement may be assigned to teach any subject in the middle grades. Teachers holding an elementary endorsement may be assigned to teach in grades 7 and 8 if they acquire 6 credit hours per year .

toward the middle level endorsement or participate in staff development in accordance with a school or district mission and plan for the education of middle grade students. (See Rule 10-006).

Library Media and Guidance Staff. Schools may assign any certificated teacher as library media specialist or guidance counselor if the teacher acquires at least 6 college credit hours per year toward the appropriate endorsement for the assignment. (See 10-004.04A3 and 10-004.05A4)